
Royal Hotel (Former)



Royal Hotel (former),
Hobsons Bay Heritage Study
2006

Location

85 Nelson Place WILLIAMSTOWN, Hobsons Bay City

Municipality

HOBSONS BAY CITY

Level of significance

Incl in HO area contributory

Victorian Heritage Register (VHR) Number

H1770

Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO212

Heritage Listing

Hobsons Bay City

Statement of Significance

Last updated on -

What is Significant?

The Royal Hotel, designed by T Athness and constructed by Henry Hick in 1890, at 85 Nelson Place, Williamstown.

How is it Significant?

The Royal Hotel is of local historic, social and aesthetic significance to the City of Hobsons Bay.

Why is it Significant?

Historically, it is significant as an illustration of the prosperity of Williamstown during the mid to late nineteenth century and illustrates the improvements made to hotels as a result of changes to licensing laws during this time. (AHC criteria A4 and D2)

Aesthetically, it is architecturally significant as an almost original highly mannered early and successful use of the Elizabethan revival style, perhaps the most successful outside of Melbourne city. (AHC criteria E1 and F1)

Socially, it illustrates the importance of hotels as community meeting places in Williamstown during the nineteenth century. (AHC criterion G1)

Note: Included on the Victorian Heritage Register as VHR H1770.

Heritage Study/Consultant	Hobsons Bay - Hobsons Bay Heritage Study, Hobsons Bay City Council, 2006;
Architect/Designer	Hick, Henry,
Hermes Number	15145
Property Number	

Physical Description 1

The Royal Hotel is a Jacobean/Elizabethan/Queen Anne revival building of three storeys and built of face red brickwork with profuse and distinctive stucco ornament. Divided into three bays, this highly mannered design is characterized by its two Flemish gables to the flanking bays and an incomplete central bay topped with a large rectangular brick panel. Adorned with a cement garland it is supported by circle-quadrants on either side. A wide arch placed on squat, stylised columns and superposed on taller ones below, houses a pair of glazed doors which open to a pair of balconettes, one over the others. Here the iron balustrading is bellied out in a fine French flavoured pattern. Twin arched entrance doors flank a wider arched bar window, in the manner of the facade above, which has a Romanesque inspired crow-stepped architrave.

Comparison may be made with the Winfield Building, Collins Street, Melbourne.

Integrity

External Integrity and condition

Integrity - High. Condition - Good. The crowning central pediment is gone and some brick work is painted but otherwise generally original.

Condition - Good.

Physical Description 2

Context

The hotel is a somewhat isolated and dominating building located opposite the port, which is part of a chain of early hotels along Nelson Place and within proximity of the waterfront . It links the former Oriental (q.v.), and former Prince of Wales Hotel (q.v.) with the Nelson Place commercial precinct.

Historical Australian Themes

Developing local, regional and national economies, Lodging people

Physical Description 3

Associations

Thomas De Wardt, T Athoness, Henry Hick

This place/object may be included in the Victorian Heritage Register pursuant to the Heritage Act 2017. Check the Victorian Heritage Database, selecting 'Heritage Victoria' as the place source.

For further details about Heritage Overlay places, contact the relevant local council or go to Planning Schemes Online <http://planningschemes.dpcd.vic.gov.au/>